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CIVIL AND CRIMINAL REPORT

ON THE

SONTAL PERGUNNAHS

FOR 1858.

BY

G. U. YULE, ESQUIRE,

Commissioner of the Sontal Pergunnahs.

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1859.

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No. 11. Ct.

FROM

THE COMMISSIONER OF THE SONTAL PERGUNNAHS,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL,

FORT WILLIAM.

Dated Camp Titalya, 18th February 1859.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to submit the under-mentioned Statements, comprising the Returns of the different Sontal Officers for the past year.

No. 1. Criminal.

No. 2. Cases under Act IV. of 1840.

No. 3. Criminal Appeals.

No. 4. Civil Appeals.

No. 5. Civil Suits, Execution of Decrees, Summary.

No. 6. Comparative Statement of Work done in each Sontal Office.

2nd. No. 1 is intended to show the number of offences of each kind with the number of cases and persons brought to trial, and, the results for each six months separately as well as for the whole year, and underneath each description of offences is given (marked *) the Return of the preceding year, so that comparison may be easily made, I hope, between the results of the first half-year, during four months of which the Police existed, and the last half, when the effect of their abolition began to be apparent, and also between the two years.

3rd. The main point to which I would wish to draw the Lieutenant-Governor's attention is the increase in the number of offences reported during the last half and the whole year over the first half and the preceding year. Is this increase owing to an actual increase in crime in consequence of the abolition of the Police and the inefficiency of the people and the Sontal Officers to do without them, or is it the result of the better reporting of crime under the new system? In my opinion the latter is the sole cause of the increase shown by the Statement in most descriptions of crime. The question is a very important one, for on the answer depends, in a great degree, the opinion which must be entertained regarding the success or failure of the no-Police system. I hope, therefore, the Lieutenant-Governor will excuse my saying a few words on the point. I shall first take the probability of crime being better reported under the old or under the new system. Are our Police respected for honesty, knowledge of their Districts, and success in their duties, or not? Common opinion says they are paid for taking reports of crime,

for investigating crime, for concealing crime, for proving criminals to be innocent, and for the reverse. It says they are corrupt, extortionate and cruel in their process of extortion, that if they know the Rules by which they should be guided they do not attend to them, that they are generally utterly ignorant of their Districts, and if they do appear to find anything out, it is the Plaintiff, or the Villagers, or the Zemindar's people, who really do so in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, while the Police get the credit. I have been a Magistrate for many years, and I really believe public opinion to be very correct in these matters, nor do I think the Lieutenant-Governor will greatly disagree with it.

4th. With regard to the no-Police system, public opinion cannot be called as a witness, for it knows nothing about it. I might cite the residents in these Districts as witnesses in favor of the new plan; but they will in time speak for themselves. I shall only say at present that their reporting costs nothing but the journey of the Chowkeedar and of the sufferer, if he so pleases, to the Hakim; that investigation and trial of crime also costs nothing but the time spent by the people themselves in investigating and in going to and returning from the Hakim's Station, and they are paid from the day they leave their homes till their return. No Police or Amlah have to be feed, enmity and rascality are deprived of their friends, they have no body to fee; the villagers, therefore, that is at least nine-tenths of the population, are free to do what they think best, to report or to conceal a crime. They are not deterred from reporting by the fear of a Government Officer concerned in concealing it, or by fear of the Zemindar, who, without the aid of that Officer of Government, always at his service for a sufficient consideration, loses great part of his power for evil. There is no general influence at work to keep a matter secret. One Zemindar wishes, we will say, to conceal a murder he may prevent his own Ryots from reporting, but he has not the influence of the Police to assist him in preventing the Ryots of neighbouring Zemindars letting out the secret openly or quietly to the Hakim.

5th. Granting then what I have said of both systems to be correct,—and I do not think any one really acquainted with the ways of the Natives will say I entertain too strong a prejudice on either side,—what is the probability?—that crime will be better reported where there are Police or where there are none? Of course I suppose the Hakims in each system to be of average abilities and character, and in doing so I give up a great deal to the opponents of the new system. The Sontal Officers have lately been accused of ignorance, incapacity and ill-temper from a quarter where it was little expected; they can well, I believe, afford to disdain the accusation, but it shall be answered in due time.

6th. I think then it may fairly be considered probable that crime will be better reported in the Sontal Districts than in a Regulation Province; but there is a special reason why the results now under remark must be the effect of more complete reporting of crime and not of an actual increase in criminal acts. For three years—from 1855-56 to 1857-58—there have been short crops of all produce in the Sontal Districts, and this, with the distress caused by the insurrection, drove many to crime. Since July last, however, the crops have been first-rate. The want they had suffered, and the favorable appearance of the season, induced the people to sow a larger breadth than usual of maize, and a finer crop was never gathered. This at once put a stop to the numerous petty thefts, especially of Grain, resorted to from hunger. The abundance of the last season and the scarcity of its predecessors are notorious facts. Unless then crime

decreases among a poor population when food is scarce and dear, and increases when it is cheap and plentiful, the increase in occurrences shown in the Returns of the past year cannot be the result of an increase in crimes, and there is no other way of accounting for it but as the effect of better reporting.

7th. The next point I would note is the large proportion of cases brought to trial. This, it seems to me, is greater considerably than in the Regulation Provinces; but I have not the means at present of making an accurate comparison. I must say that if the Sontal Officers are *even only commonly* honest and diligent, it stands to reason that sufferers will be more ready to apply to them for redress than to a Magistrate begirt with Police Amlah, Mooktears and Stamp Paper, where every step that is taken, every word that is written, must be paid for.

8th. Statements 2, 3 and 4 show the results of suits for dispossession and of Criminal and Civil Appeals to the Deputy Commissioner. They tell their own tale. The paucity of Criminal Appeals is remarkable. As an appeal may be made by a *vivâ voce* statement to the Officer whose order is appealed against, or by a few lines on plain paper, forwarded to the Appellate Officer, under cover of a half anna ticket, as neither the Deputy Commissioner nor I stand on ceremony when we think injustice has been done, I must presume the paucity of appeals is owing to the decisions generally giving satisfaction.

9th. No. 5 is the Statement of Civil cases of summary suits for arrears of rent, under Regulation VII. of 1799, and of execution of Civil decrees. About 1,500 Civil suits were instituted during the past year, being an increase of one-third on the preceding year, and about the same mumber were disposed of. The increase does not look as if the people were dissatisfied. The new Civil Rules were introduced only during the latter half of the year, and their effect has yet to be seen. Natives, of course, would not like to express openly to me all they might think objectionable in these Rules; but I gathered they were generally approved of so far as their effect was understood. The two Sections abolishing imprisonment for debt, and restricting the sale of a debtor's property to superfluities, were objected to by Mahajuns and some others as likely seriously to interfere with the realization of their debts. Imprisonment was seldom resorted to in enforcement of payment, but, as the objectors urged, the fear of it made debtors pay. This is doubtless, to some extent, true, and in a Regulation District, with the benamee system in full force, it may be necessary to have recourse to compulsion in the case of parties whose property nominally belongs to ther wives, or mothers, or servants, or priests, or deities, or any other sham respected by our Legislative Council and Civil Courts; but in the Sontal Districts no such compulsion is necessary, for by Section 29 of the Civil Rules the benamee system is cut through at the root, a transfer of property by any one to a member of his family or household, &c, is to be judged by the effect it would have if valid, if that would be to absolve the property from responsibility for the transferer's debts, then the transfer is null and the attempted transfer is punishable criminally. Again, though a transfer may be null as regards the transferer, it renders the property attempted to be transferred liable for the nominal transferee's debts. These principles in their expected effect were not understood by the objectors. I believe they now begin to see that when the whole of a man's property is tangible for debt, imprisonment as a means of enforcing payment is superfluous. Again, with regard to the exemptions from sale, I would remark first that the total value of all the articles exempted would be under Rupees 50 on the average. The deprivation of this sum in any one instance would

be of little consequence to the Mahajun; to the other party and his family the sale of these things would be utter ruin, and I deny either the justice or expediency of inflicting such a ruin in satisfaction of any debt, however large. On the other hand Mahajuns do not often have recourse to sale of the property of a Ryot who has nothing or little else but the exempted articles. In one way or other they manage to get interest at least out of such a poor Ryot, so the instances of loss under the new Rule will probably be no greater than they have been heretofore. It is true the Mahajun, under the Regulation system, did not trouble himself with referring to the Courts to any great extent. He simply sent his people, and swept off the whole of his debtor's cattle, selling or keeping them as best suited himself. The people, ignorant and timid, and aware of the hopelessness of redress against their wealthy oppressor in any Civil Court or Magistrate's, with a Native Executive, seldom complained. If they did, a deed of sale or mortgage generally, I verily believe forged for the occasion, was the ready reply. What could a poor Ryot, with his sole wealth, his cattle, gone, do? He could not fee Mookteers, Amlah, Vakeels, &c., and without feeing them handsomely, did any body in India, European or Native, rich or poor, ever get justice, if justice indeed it can be called, in a Civil Court. In a Magistrate's they might by chance. Since the introduction of the new system the complaints against Mahajuns for this forcible carrying off of cattle have been numerous and well-proved. I did not consider we should be justified in interfering in cases which had occurred before the insurrection; there were plenty after it, however, and indeed the practice had become so much a matter of course that even yet a case occasionally happens, some sharp lessons have been required regarding this and the Kamiotee system (hereafter described) by the Hindoo Rajpoots and other high castes settled in the Sontal Districts with reference to their treatment of the lower castes and wild tribes, for whom they have not one atom of feeling. A more inhuman set in this respect it is not possible to conceive.

10*th.* With regard to the execution of decrees I need only remark that the Deputy Commissioner at least, if none of the other Officers, has mistaken the intent of the Statement, and omitted therefrom all decrees executed on the spot on the decree being given.

11*th.* The summary suits for rent are not numerous, and in future this Statement will not be required, as by the new Rules there is no distinction between suits for rent or any other claims. Summary suits against distraint are so few that I have not thought it worth while to send a Statement of them or of execution of summary decrees, which are settled generally by the parties themselves.

12*th.* In the remaining Statement I have endeavored to show the comparative amount of work done in each Division of the Sontal Districts under the heads of Criminal and Civil cases and execution of decrees which, exclusive of rent collections, are the principal heads of work admitting of being shown in figures.

13*th.* The Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Robinson, has had no Assistant during the year. Mr. Wilmot had charge of his Division for a fortnight in December when he himself was on circuit. He shows the largest Return in Criminal occurrences and cases and in parties tried. He has devoted himself greatly to getting the no-Police system into good working order and the Criminal work in general, and I think on the whole he has his Division more in hand than any of the other Officers. He was travelling either in his own or other Divisions during fully six months of the year. He has all the appeals and

commitments from Messrs. Taylor, Braddon and Cheek, and he has charge of a portion of the Damun, with a rent of about Rupees 18,000 a year. He has consequently not been able to pay so much attention to Civil work as it requires. With two Officers in his Division the Civil work would increase very largely.

14*th*. RAJMEHAL.—Mr. Wood has had this Division during the year, assisted by Mr. Sherman, of whom he speaks very well. Mr. Wood's Criminal work is inferior in amount to all but Mr. Cheek's; his Civil is exceeded by Mr. Braddon only. I had intended visiting Rajmehal with Mr. Robinson to examine into the cause of the Criminal Returns showing so little crime and other matters; but Mr. Robinson found he had enough to do in his own Division for some time, and Mr. Wood himself had commenced his collections in the Damun, from which I thought it unadvisable to distract his attention. After the close of the season I shall visit Rajmehal. Mr. Wood has charge of by far the largest portion of the Damun, from which his collections amount to about Rupees 30,000, otherwise this tract, inhabited entirely by Sontals and Pahareeas, yields little work. The remainder of his Division consists of the strip of land between the Damun and the Ganges and Regulation Pergunnahs excluded from the Sontal Districts by Act X. of 1857. This strip is inhabited by Bengallees, and among them and the inhabitants of the large town of Rajmehal the principal part of the Civil and Criminal work arises. In addition to this Mr. Wood, however, has numerous cases among the Railway people, some of them very troublesome; but his management is admirable. Very few Officers could have succeeded in his place in gaining the esteem of all, while at the same time strictly performing his duty. He has also charge of a Treasury kept at Rajmehal to supply the Railway wants. He has built an excellent house on account of Government, levelled and cleared the ground about the Station, made a good Road towards the Steamer Ghat, incomplete for want of funds, and whenever Steamers or Troops or strangers want anything done, he is the person asked to do it and he does it. His hospitality to strangers, who had no one else to go to at Rajmehal, has been a serious obstacle to his work this past year. I have applied to the Post Master General to have a Dâk Bungalow erected at Rajmehal. I think Mr. Wood would get through more work if he did not try to do so much. He does not take enough, I think, out of his subordinates. This is the only point on which I think him a little at fault. I never before found fault with an Officer for working too hard. I forgot to say that Mr. Wood had charge of Mr. Cheek's Division for about a month.

Mr. Wood speaks very well of Mr. Sub-Assistant Sherman. I had occasion to remark rather sharply on the insufficiency of Mr. Sherman's enquiries in two or three cases which came before me; latterly, however, I think he has improved.

15*th*. Mr. Taylor has had the Doomka Division throughout the year, and Mr. Rogers has been his Assistant for the greater part of the time. In Criminal work he and Mr. Braddon may be bracketed together, as second to the Deputy Commissioner only. In Civil work he is by no means so well off. He has charge of the Southern portion of the Damun, with a rent collection of about Rupees 10,000, and the farming rents of Noni (14,000) and Belputta (9,000) Estates under the Court of Wards are paid into his Treasury. Mr. Taylor has greatly improved of late in his style of work. He would, perhaps, get through more with a little more method, and generally he does not seem to apprehend the points in a case with the quickness and directness of most of the other Officers; but he has certainly much improved. The Deputy Commissioner

and I were for some time at Doomka, and thoroughly examined his mode of work, with which we were much pleased. He had in one or two instances employed Zemindaree Agents to investigate a case, but he had himself found his error and now worked precisely on the spirit of the Rules. He is as great a favorite as ever with the Sontals. I think he may be safely entrusted now with the full powers of a Magistrate, and I have recommended that he should be so, in my letter No. 12 of this date. Mr. Rogers will leave as soon as Mr. Scott arrives.

16*th*. Mr. Braddon had charge of Deoghur throughout the year excepting one month, when the District was left to Mr. Floyd's immediate charge.

Mr. Floyd was Assistant throughout the year, and Mr. Williamson for a considerable portion Mr. Braddon's Return of Civil suits and execution of decrees far exceeds those of any other Officers, and in Criminal work he is surpassed by the Deputy Commissioner only. He has to collect the revenue of fifty-two Ghatwalee Talooks and two or three attached and temporarily-settled Estates. His Division is, I think, the largest of the five; but he is rapidly becoming acquainted with it all. The Deputy Commissioner and I were much disappointed at finding Mr. Braddon had misapprehended the Police Rules and worked mainly through the Ghatwals instead of through the Villagers. Mr. Robinson's Report first opened his eyes to his error here, and Mr. Robinson himself, when at Deoghur, showed him the proper mode of work, which he at once, of course, adopted. With this exception Mr. Braddon's style of work is all that could be wished. I think he is fully competent to exercise the powers of a Magistrate, with which, I have recommended, he should be invested, in my letter No. 12 of this date.

17*th*. Mr. Floyd wishes to do well and tries. Whether it is merely want of experience or a natural deficiency of judgment I cannot say; but as yet he has not been successful in satisfying either Mr. Braddon, Mr. Robinson or myself with his work, and I could not recommend him for the vacancy which Mr. Scott has been appointed to fill.

18*th*. Mr. Cheek has left the Sontal Districts, and I need, therefore, remark no further than that Mr. Robinson was quite correct in stating that he, Mr. Cheek, worked entirely through the Zemindars. Mr. Wilmot, who succeeded him, is not a person likely to listen either to Amlah or Zemindars, and having had some practical experience of the proper working of the system under Mr. Robinson, he will, I have no doubt, soon correct what is wrong in the Heranpore Division.

19*th*. In former Reports I have described the Sontal Districts at so much length that I need say little now. A wonderful change has come over the people ever since last year. They all, and the Sontals in particular, have become so fat and sleek, and they have entirely lost the look either sulky or anxious which most of them at first had. Their complaints too now are individual, not general. Two deputations of Sontal Manjees,—one from Khurruckpore, the other from Chukye, both in Monghyr,—came to us at Deoghur to complain of the exactions and oppressions they suffered at the hands of the Mahajuns and Zemindars. I had enquired into their complaints while passing through Khurruckpore, when the Manjees were all absent, having gone to consult Mr. Robinson, whose name is great in Sontaldom. The complaints resolved themselves into two general subjects. The Sontals had pottahs for short periods only; they had settled in the jungles

at low rents at first; these had been gradually increased, and were about to be increased still more. The Sontals wished to revert to the first jumma, or if that could not be done, then they hoped Government would take all their villages into its own hands and retain the present rents without further increase. I could not give them any hope of compliance with either of their requests. The Zemindars had the right, by law, under the circumstances, to increase their rents, and were doing no more than Mr. Pontet did in the Damun, and received praise and thanks and a gold watch from Government for doing. The second subject of complaint was the cheating of Mahajuns and Zemindaree Agents in their accounts with the Sontals. Here the inability of the Sontals to read and write, their ignorance and timidity, and the constitution of the Regulation Courts, present obstacles in the way of redress not easily overcome. The Sontals have knotted strings and memory only to trust to, and the Manjee of the village has to do the recollection for all its inhabitants. The other side have their accounts nicely kept and plenty of witnesses to swear to their correctness. Other complaints related to cheating in weights and measures, &c. We explained to the deputations with much repetition that we in the Sontal Districts could not help them, that they lived under another system, and must be guided by the rules of that system; in endeavoring to obtain redress, that they should not, on suffering any injustice, sit down and hope that things would somehow improve, but they should at once proceed to the Magistrate or to the Collector of Monghyr, according to the nature of the complaint, and tell their tale, and I wrote to the Officers named, requesting them to take up personally, or to make over to their best European Assistants, all Sontal complaints, to keep them away from the Amlah and hangers-on of the Courts, and to watch carefully the proceedings in cases of distraint. Both Officers willingly agreed to my requests. Mr. Toogood had already been out once to Khurruckpore, enquiring into all matters, and intended to go again, and Mr. Tucker also promised to go as soon as possible. I hope these steps, mild as they are, will have some good effect. I think, however, it would be as well to station a good Deputy Magistrate and Collector near Khurruckpore for half the year, allowing him to reside at Monghyr during the unhealthy season, retaining charge of this Sub-Division and also helping in the general work of the District. If the Lieutenant-Governor approves of this suggestion, I shall report on the details.

20*th*. With regard to the no-Police the Assistant Commissioners have reported at length on their mode of working it, and all speak in glowing terms of its success. After Mr. Robinson's Report of October, which the Lieutenant-Governor was pleased to print and circulate, it is not necessary for me to say more at present on the subject. I enclose, however, Mr. Wood's Report for His Honor's perusal. It seems to me the best, though Mr. Taylor's approaches it closely.

21*st*. Another matter, on which I shall make a few remarks, is the stoppage put to the Kamiotee and Hurwahee systems of bondage by Mr. Robinson. Under the Kamiotee system, a poor man, borrowing Rupees 5, 10 or 20, binds himself to work for the lender till the loan is re-paid, sometimes with the condition of getting food (one seer of paddy a day!), sometimes with no such condition. A Hurwahee bond is the same, except that the borrower has to plough the lender's fields, whenever required, until the loan is re-paid. Of course the loans are never re-paid. Where is the Kamiot to get money when he has to work for the lender always gratis? The Hurwahee is no better; he is always wanted to plough the lender's fields when he ought to be ploughing his own, and

of course he is soon reduced to the lowest level. When the father dies the son becomes a Kamiot in his place, and so it goes on—slavery under the pretence of hired labor. Mr. Robinson's attention was attracted to the subject, I believe, by the number of thefts committed by Kamiots on their masters, and their common reply, when asked if they had committed the theft—"What could I do Saheb, he made me work all "day and gave me nothing to eat." I have not Mr. Robinson's Report on the subject with me, but it will be submitted shortly, together with a copy of my orders to the Officers in general on the subject. As the Kamiotee system was in great favor with the Rajpoots and other Hindoo castes, who will not put their own hands to plough or other work, and as these people are tolerably numerous in Mr. Robinson's Division, the stoppage of the practice caused a little excitement, and some bitter appeals were made to me on the subject, particularly when Mr. Robinson fined a wealthy Hindoo severely for starving his Kamiot. The system is now dying out. Those who have not complained don't want to be released, their masters now treating them better, and the Deputy Commissioner has had the satisfaction of putting a stop to a system of slavery as thorough as ever existed, and has never said a word about it except to myself; the late slaves though know him well.

22*nd*. The destruction of human life by wild animals has been very great this year. The Assistant Commissioners have not all sent in Returns for the year, as they were not before called for; but they will be submitted as soon as possible. In Doomka alone 340 persons were reported to have been killed, principally by leopards. Mr. Taylor does not think all the accidents in this way are reported, which is very probable. Of course in my opinion they were less regularly reported under the old system, still the concurrent testimony of all the residents compels me to believe that the loss of human life from wild animals has very much increased of late years. Formerly, it seems the Purneah Shikarees were in the habit of visiting, every year, the Southern parts of Bhaugulpore and Monghyr, and the North of Beerbhoom; but their visits had altogether ceased for some time, and to this fact some of the more intelligent inhabitants ascribed the increase in wild animals, and with good reason. I got over a number of the said Purneah Shikarees lately, and I found from them that their annual visits to what are now the Sontal Districts had ceased in consequence of some Collector not paying the rewards regularly (this was not all the truth; about ten or fifteen years ago they found in Assam and Eastern Bengal Countries where tigers, &c., were more numerous and easier to kill from the nature of the jungle than South of the Ganges). They could not tell how long it was since they had abandoned their operations across the Ganges; it was certainly not less than ten years ago, and may have been twenty, if not more, for only one of the party, and he rather an old man, knew any thing whatever of the Sontal Country. These Shikarees were unfortunately a set of great rascals, who preferred dressing up the skins of hyenas to look like tigers' skins rather than to work honestly for the nobler animal. A beginning, however, has been made in the attempt to destroy the beasts. The rewards sanctioned by the Lieutenant-Governor, of ten Rupees for a tiger or leopard and five for a wolf, have induced the people to try what they can do. The number of beasts killed will be mentioned in the Return before alluded to in this Paragraph.

23*rd*. In your letter, No. 4687, dated 2nd December 1858, the Lieutenant-Governor was pleased to remark that the success of the Sontal system so far was owing

to the personal qualities of the Officers concerned. I have seldom had greater delight than in being the medium of receiving and communicating that opinion to the Officers concerned. Without such Officers as Messrs Robinson, Taylor, Wood and Braddon, whom the Lieutenant-Governor has selected for the work, I fear the new system would have succeeded little better than the old Regulation one. If this is true what important inferences must be drawn from the fact no less than the incapacity of a close service and Regulation Law to give satisfaction to the people

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

G U. YULE,

Commissioner of the Sontal Pergunnahs.

No. 1.

STATEMENT of Cases known to have been committed in the Sontal Pergunnahs, and of Cases brought to trial during the Year 1858.

Crimes.		No. of Crimes ascertained to have been committed.	Pending.			Brought on.			Total.	Acquittals.	Convictions.	Committals.	Pending at the close of the Year.			Remarks.
			Cases.	Prisoners in Jail.	Parties on Bail.	Cases.	Prisoners in Jail.	Parties on Bail.					Cases.	Prisoners in Jail.	Parties on Bail.	
1.		2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.
Murder	1st half of 1858 ...	7	2	2	0	12	30	3	35	9	0	24	0	0	0	
	2nd ditto	5	0	0	0	16	43	3	46	7	0	32	2	8	0	
	Total of 1858	12	2	2	0	28	73	6	81	16	0	56	2	8	0	
	*In 1857	27	0	0	0	35	0	0	97	26	0	62	2	2	0	
Dacoity	1st half of 1858 ...	55	6	53	0	42	368	8	429	167	0	191	0	0	0	
	2nd ditto...	18	0	0	0	12	94	0	94	104	2	40	1	1	0	
	Total of 1858	73	6	53	0	54	462	8	523	271	2	231	1	1	0	
	*In 1857	67	0	0	0	53	0	0	†600	153	21	257	6	53	0	† 95 transferred, 21 escaped and died.
Highway Robbery	1st half of 1858 ...	8	2	10	0	11	41	3	54	29	14	6	0	0	0	
	2nd ditto...	9	0	0	0	8	25	2	27	9	0	11	3	12	0	
	Total of 1858 ...	17	2	10	0	19	66	5	81	38	14	17	3	12	0	
	*In 1857	12	0	0	0	16	0	0	58	19	0	26	2	10	0	

Burglary	1st half of 1858 ...	154	0	0	0	29	86	3	89	34	31	20	0	0	0
	2nd ditto...	361	0	0	0	63	174	4	178	50	65	55	3	7	4
	Total of 1858	515	0	0	0	92	260	7	267	84	96	75	3	7	4
	*In 1857	393	0	0	0	60	0	0	176	61	67	28	0	0	0
Thefts	1st half of 1858 ...	428	8	11	0	274	579	62	652	197	325	84	0	0	0
	2nd ditto	726	0	0	0	403	762	20	782	252	485	66	10	18	2
	Total of 1858	1154	8	11	0	677	1341	82	1434	449	810	150	10	18	2
	*In 1857	618	0	0	0	341	0	0	779	172	511	74	8	11	0
Illegal assemblage for Plunder	1st half of 1858 ...	0	1	11	0	2	9	0	20	3	0	16	0	0	0
	2nd ditto...	2	0	0	0	2	2	1	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
	Total of 1858	2	1	11	0	4	11	1	23	6	0	16	0	0	0
	*In 1857	20	0	0	0	12	0	0	113	70	2	30	1	11	0
Wounding	1st half of 1858 ...	3	0	0	0	2	1	2	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
	2nd ditto...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total of 1858	3	0	0	0	2	1	2	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
	*In 1857	9	0	0	0	9	0	0	25	6	16	0	0	0	0
Perjury	1st half or 1858 ...	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0
	2nd ditto	1	0	0	0	1	0	4	4	1	4	0	0	0	0
	Total of 1858	2	0	0	0	3	2	4	6	1	4	1	0	0	0
	*In 1857	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0
Forgery	1st half of 1858 ...	2	0	0	0	2	1	3	4	3	0	0	0	0	0
	2nd ditto	2	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0
	Total of 1858	4	0	0	0	4	2	3	5	3	0	2	0	0	0
	*In 1857	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

No. 1.—*(Concluded.)*

Crimes.		No. of Crimes ascertained to have been committed.	Pending.			Brought on.			Total.	Acquittals.	Convictions.	Committals.	Pending at the close of the Year.			Remarks.
			Cases.	Prisoners in Jail.	Parties on Bail.	Cases.	Prisoners in Jail.	Parties on Bail.					Cases.	Prisoners in Jail.	Parties on Bail.	
1.		2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.
Rape	1st half of 1858 ...	7	0	0	0	6	5	1	6	3	0	2	0	0	0	
	2nd ditto	8	0	0	0	6	4	4	8	4	1	3	1	1	0	
	Total of 1858... ...	15	0	0	0	12	9	5	14	7	1	5	1	1	0	
	*In 1857	8	0	0	0	10	0	0	11	7	0	3	0	0	0	
Arson	1st half of 1858 ...	8	0	0	0	4	3	3	6	4	0	2	0	0	0	
	2nd ditto	1	0	0	0	2	3	0	3	2	0	1	0	0	0	
	Total of 1858	9	0	0	0	6	6	3	9	6	0	3	0	0	0	
	*In 1857	9	0	0	0	9	0	0	22	15	2	3	0	0	0	

Offences not mentioned above	1st half of 1858 ...	427	11	5	19	434	196	488	708	360	261	46	0	0	0	
	2nd ditto	914	0	0	0	649	278	636	914	505	371	32	31	16	29	
	Total of 1858	1341	11	5	19	1083	474	1124	1622	865	632	78	31	16	29	
	*In 1857	771	0	0	0	611	0	0	1273	730	437	20	0	0	0	
	Total of 1st half of 1858	1100	30	92	19	820	1321	576	2008	812	631	392	0	0	0	Total of Columns 10, 11, 12, 14 and 15 = 4,040, leaving 28 out of the total in Column 9 unaccounted for. Of these died ..... 25 escaped ..... 1 Sent to Deoghur for trial from the Deputy Commissioner's Court ..... 2 — 28
	Ditto of 2nd ditto	2047	0	0	0	1164	1387	674	2060	937	928	242	51	63	35	
	Total of 1858	3147	30	92	19	1984	2707	1250	4068	1749	1559	634	51	63	35	
	*In 1857	1935	0	0	0	1158	0	0	3156	1259	1056	504	19	87	0	

Commissioner's Office, Sontal Pergunnahs;
Camp Titalya,
The 18th February 1859.

G. U. YULE,
Commissioner of the Sontal Pergunnahs.

	No. 2.				No. 3.			No. 4.		
	Cases under Act. IV. of 1840.				*Criminal Appeals of all kinds tried by Deputy Commissioner.*			*Civil Appeals of all kinds tried by Deputy Commissioner.*		
	Total on file.	Decided on their merits.	Withdrawn, struck off, &c.	Pending.	No.	Confirmed.	Modified or reversed.	No.	Confirmed.	Modified or reversed.
In the five Divisions	120	59	49	12	57	33	15	74	51	14

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE, SONTAL PERGUNNAHS;
CAMP TITALYA,
The 18th February 1859.

G. U. YULE,
Commissioner of the Sontal Pergunnahs.

No. 5.

STATEMENT of Civil Suits instituted in the Sontal Pergunnahs, during the Year 1858.

Miscellaneous Cases.

	Pending.	Originally Instituted.	Appeals.	Total.	Grand Total.	Decided in favor of Plaintiffs.	Decided in favor of Defendants.	Nonsuited.	Dismissed on default.	Adjusted by compromise.	Transferred.	Total.	Pending at the close of the year.		Pending.	Instituted.	Disposed of.	Pending at the close of the year.
1st half of 1858 ...	273	706	37	743	1016	355	94	4	217	150	1	821	0		6	2	8	0
2nd ditto	0	746	32	778	778	285	107	4	196	133	2	727	244		0	124	120	4
Total of 1858	273	1452	69	1521	1794	640	201	8	413	283	3	1548	244		6	126	128	4
*Total of 1857	500	549	19	568	1068	159	68	5	338	173	54	797	271		0	11	5	6

Execution of Decrees.

	Pending.	Instituted.	Total.	Disposed of.	Pending.
1st half of 1858...	115	106	221	111	0
2nd ditto	0	126	126	186	50
Total of 1858 ...	115	232	347	297	50
*Total of 1857 ...	44	142	186	71	115

Summary Suits for Rent.

	Pending.	Instituted.	Appeals.	Total.	Decided in favor of Plaintiff.	Decided in favor of Defendant.	Nonsuited.	Dismissed.	Adjusted by compromise.	Total.	Pending.
1st half of 1858...	32	126	2	160	32	16	1	48	43	130	0
2nd ditto	0	57	1	58	21	6	0	14	39	80	8
Total of 1858 ...	32	183	3	218	53	22	1	62	82	210	8
*Total of 1857 ...	111	98	19	228	58	42	5	73	18	196	32

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE, SONTAL PERGUNNAHS;
CAMP TITALYA,
The 18th February 1859.

G. U. YULE,
Commissioner of the Sontal Pergunnahs.

No. 6.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of Work on the five Divisions of the Sontal Pergunnahs.

			Occurrences.	Cases tried.	Persons under trial
GODDA	Deputy Commissioner ...	1st half of 1858 ..	296	214	517
		2nd ditto	720	362	666
		*Total ...	1016	576	1183
RAJMEHAL... ...	Assistant Commissioner ..	1st half of 1858 ..	160	133	230
		2nd ditto	246	177	294
		*Total ..	406	310	524
DOOMKA	Ditto	1st half of 1858 ..	283	234	581
		2nd ditto	313	222	486
		*Total ...	596	456	1067
DEOGHUR	Ditto	1st half of 1858 ..	254	168	486
		2nd ditto	622	292	538
		*Total ..	876	460	1024
HIRANPORE ...	Ditto	1st half of 1858	107	71	194
		2nd ditto	150	115	248
		*Total ..	257	186	442

	Civil Suits decided	Execution of decrees disposed.	Summary Suits decided.
Godda	189	1	25
Rajmehal	360	17	71
Doomka	219	42	30
Deoghur	675	237	48
Hiranpore	105	0	36

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE, SONTAL PERGUNNAHS,
CAMP TITALIA,
The 18th February 1859.

G. U. YULE,
Commissioner of the Sontal Pergunnahs.

No. 10

FROM

THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, RAJMEHAL DIVISION,

TO

THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, SONTAL PERGUNNAHS.

GODDA SAHEBGUNGE,

Camp Pakawur, 11th January 1859.

SIR,

WITH reference to the Commissioner's Circular of the 11th November last, to the Assistants Commissioner, calling upon them for a more full and detailed Report of the manner in which each Assistant carries out the new Police system of those Pergunnahs in his own Division, I have now the honor to transmit my Report, through you, for the information of the Commissioner.

2. Having completed my tour of inspection, and seen all the principal Villages of my Division, I beg to inform you I have explained to every Mundul the nature of the duties he is called upon to perform. This I did by getting together at a time some eight to ten Munduls and Chowkeedars of Villages adjacent to my several Encampments, reading over to them the new Rules, explaining Para. by Para., and afterwards inviting them to make their own comments on the Rules, to see if they understood them thoroughly. If they required further information on any points, I gave them the same. I was glad to find that most of them understood the principles of the new Rules very well. My object in thus familiarly explaining the Rules to them was to get acquainted with each Mundul, to give confidence to the more timid, and by getting several together, to lead them into conversation, so that I might find out their ideas and wishes and opinions as to how these Rules had taken with the people generally.

3. The Munduls and Villagers throughout my tour have one and all asserted that the new system is to them a great boon. They are no longer *hiraaned* by visits from the Police, no extortionate demands made of them, oppressive exactions on the part of the Zemindars and their Mofussil agents have been considerably lessened, and crime very generally decreased. The only point on which Munduls showed at first any hesitation was conducting the search of suspected parties, houses for stolen goods. They know now that Section 12 fully authorizes them to do this, and that the Prosecutor, and not the Mundul, is responsible, should the former through enmity have an innocent man's house searched, provided, of course, that the Mundul had the search conducted as laid down in the above Section. The Munduls were apprehensive that if stolen goods were not found in the house searched, they would be held responsible and liable to a Criminal prosecution by the owner of such house.

4. The only remonstrance to the new Rules by the Munduls was that they did not receive pay or any remuneration for the extra duties required of them. In reply to this I told them that it was for their own immediate benefit, and that of their fellow Villagers, that this new system had been introduced by the Government, not from any wish to effect a saving of expenditure, as they might themselves see by the appointment of some ten Hakims, whose salaries were very much more than the saving effected by the abolition of the Police; Hakims were now so located that justice and protection from wrong were immediately procurable by the very poorest; they had now little or no distance to go for redress, instead of, as formerly, 70 to 100 miles to Bhaugulpore; an aggrieved person was not now detained for days and days, sometimes weeks, as formerly under the old *regime*, causing them to spend large sums in questionable ways; now all work was conducted by the Hakim, no third party being allowed between the Hakim and Petitioner, no Amlah to propitiate, and no Court fees to be incurred. For all these advantages could they not, for their own sakes and that of their fellow Villagers, give a little of their time for the general good? As for their extra duties, I explained to them that in reality very little extra work was required of them. The old Munduls amongst them must know that Heads of Villages were required by Law, under severe penalties, to report all crime, in their respective Villages, formerly, to the Police, and now that the Police had been abolished, such reports were to be made direct to the Hakim through their Chowkeedars. Those amongst them who were Izaradars or extensive Cultivators were aware that in their Pottahs from Zemindars there was an express Clause that all crimes within their Elakas was to be reported to the Magistrate of the District. The only extra work required of them was to apprehend offenders, superintend the search of suspected houses for stolen goods, and sending in Witnesses and Defendants when required to do so by the Hakims. Should any of them have to attend the Hakim's Court—and it was only in heinous and serious cases that this would be necessary—they were paid for such attendance at three Annas per day, from the day they left till return to their homes—an indulgence not granted them under the old *regime*. By such arguments would I answer those that brought forward the question of pay to Munduls. I would also touch their pride, and ask them if it was not something to be considered and looked up to as the Headman of their Village? Where before

they were simply Munduls, now they were recognized by the Hakim as the Headman of the Village—an honorary distinction and one they should be proud to bear. Some of the most clamorous for pay I would take aback by asking how often *they* had been called upon to attend Court. In several instances I found not at all. By thus humoring some, lecturing others, when our meetings broke up, the Munduls would go away satisfied that the change was to their benefit in every way, and if they got no pay, they were fully compensated for any extra duties they were called upon to perform, by honorary distinction from the Hakim, and the respect shown him by his fellow Villagers.

5. I have always distinctly explained both to the Munduls and Chowkeedars that the latter were Village servants, and had no concern whatever with the Zemindars. They were to report crime occurring in their Village first to their Mundul, and afterwards to the Hakim direct. The Zemindar would have to take his own measures for ascertaining and reporting crime occurring in his Elaka. To questions put to me by Zemindars and their Agents as to how they were to be cognizant of crime committed in any Village, unless the Munduls and Chowkeedars informed them of the same, I replied, that they had their own Gomastahs, Naibs, Goraits and Peadahs, scattered about their respective Estates, whose duty it was to keep them cognizant of all that was going on, and it was for them to see that their subordinates did their duty. It was, however, only in matters of importance that I should require reports from them, such as the occurrence of murders, homicides, severe wounding, dacoities, serious cases of burglary or theft, or of cases concealed by Munduls and Chowkeedars When asked how they were to know when Munduls and Chowkeedars had concealed any crime, I told them that in all Villages the slightest matters were known and talked of, and if a crime had been committed and no enquiry made by the Hakim. they might be pretty sure there was some cause for non-enquiry, and it was their duty to enquire into that cause, and if it transpired that no report *had* been made, it was incumbent on them to inform the Hakim of the same. I further told them that I did not require a written report of crime from them; sending in one of their own people to me to give particulars verbally would be sufficient. If in any serious case they would wish to give particulars which they feared being made known before the Hakim was informed of the same, I had no objection to take a written report.

6. Only one Zemindar, or rather the employee of a Zemindar, Dowlut Singh, of Sahebgunge, Pergunnah Telliagurhee, thinking, when the new Rules were first promulgated, that as he was responsible for reporting crime, he might make Munduls and Chowkeedars report the occurrence of any crime in his neighbourhood to him, and after ascertaining from them what had occurred, send me a written report by Dawk. This, however, I soon stopped, and now all reports come direct to me by the Chowkeedars. In cases of wreck, however, in the Ganges, I allow Dowlut Singh to send me a written report, because the Chowkeedars cannot always recollect the names of the Manjhees, Chaluandars, and those who employ them, also where the wrecked boat may have come from or be going to, what and how much property may have been lost or saved. The Munduls of Villages in that Pergunnah, being principally Chynnes, are unable to read, write, or send in the above particulars.

7. In several Villages the residents have chosen their own Munduls, independent of the Zemindaree Mundul. This I have rather encouraged, being desirous that the Ryots should have a Headman of their own, independent altogether of Zemindaree influence, to whom they could look up to for protection from the exactions of Zemindars and their subordinates. Ryots see the advantage of this by the decrease of illegal attachments of their crops and cattle for arrears of rent by Village Gomastahs. Zemindars now have more frequent recourse to the Summary Suit Court for recovery of their arrears of rents from Ryots, as is proved by the greater number of such cases now instituted in my Court than was formerly done. The Ryots generally now know that Zemindars cannot, and are not allowed to demand the several abwabs and cesses they used formerly to do. Having punished some Zemindars and their people some months ago for illegally exacting cesses from the Ryots, such exactions are now of rare occurrence, and will, I hope, be gradually discontinued altogether

8. I have now a correct Register of the Villages and Munduls of my Division. I found the old Thannah Registers very incorrect, many Villages still appearing in them which years ago were swept away by the Ganges. Many new ones have been made, some recently. The whole of Pergunnahs Furka and Dushazaree having been excluded from this Division under Act X. of 1857, and some thirty Villages also excluded from this and incorporated with the Heerunpore, has materially reduced the size of the Rajmehal Division, and I have now no hesitation in saying that the diminution of crime, as reported in my letter No. 284 of the 14th October last, is rather owing to this decreased jurisdiction, nine-tenths of the excluded Villages being Bengallee, to the cessation of false and malicious charges, and to the stringent measures followed for the suppression of crime, than to its concealment by the people. I am glad to have it in my power to add that I did not hear throughout my tour a single case of theft or any other serious crime having been concealed or hushed up although I made every enquiry through Villagers, Ryots and all classes.

9. On questioning Munduls, respectable residents of Villages, and Chowkeedars, as to the cause of this decrease of crime, I was invariably answered that if there was no crime, how could they report; if it was necessary to show that crime did exist, it was easy to get up a few cases now and then, as was formerly done. One great cause of the cessation and decrease of crime is the fact that several hundreds of Pahariahs—the greatest and most expert thieves in this Division—especially those who live on the range of Hills nearest the plains—are now with their families gaining their livelihood on the Railway works, who before depended for a subsistence on what they could get by theft and robbery. This has been brought about by my fining now and then, and repeatedly threatening the Sirdars, Naibs and Manjhees when their Villagers were convicted of theft in the plains. These men now keep a vigilant watch over the budmashes of their Villages, knowing well who cultivate and gain an honest livelihood, and those who do not. The greatest number of burglaries in this Division used to be committed in the town of Rajmehal itself, and generally by Pahariahs, as proved by the great number of convictions of that people, the majority of prisoners in my Jail at Rajmehal being Pahariahs.

10. I have impressed upon Munduls and Villagers the necessity of paying up their Chowkeedars regularly, for if not paid, they would have recourse to exceptional and dishonest practices to keep themselves and their families in food, deserting their charge at night, and perhaps colluding at theft in the neighboring Villages. I have discharged several Dosad and Dome Chowkeedars, not residents of the Villages in which they acted as Chowkeedars, and appointed residents of such Villages in their places, the latter being willing to take what the Villagers gave them, whereas the former were generally dissatisfied with their rate of pay, and constantly, in consequence, in hot water with the Ryots. I have also induced Sontals to be Chowkeedars in Zemindaree Sontal Villages, and hope to do the same with the Sontals in the Damun, when I go there for my rent collections.

11. The system of paying Chowkeedars, as arranged by the Ryots, is, I think, a fair one. Some few have lands allotted them by the Zemindars, but the generality of them are paid by the Ryots and residents of Villages by cash and grain, from nine to twelve Rupees in cash and a like sum in kind, such as Rice, Salt and sundries. In some large Villages only money is paid, generally to Dosads and Domes. A Villager being a cultivating Ryot is sometimes glad to take the Chowkeedarship of his Village, getting as he does a small addition to his means, and accepts what the Villagers assess themselves at for the pay of Chowkeedar, but Dosads, Mirdhas and other low classes, who come long distances to act as Chowkeedars, always demand money payments. These men generally come from Gya, Chuprah and Ghazeepore, coming only for a season, and returning to their homes with what they make. Ryots prefer paying in Dhan, Rice, Salt, and Oil so much monthly, and perhaps their four Annas or six Annas at the end of the year after sale of their excess Dhan, to being forced into making money payments. These Dosads and alien Chowkeedars do not, therefore, meet with much favor from the Ryots of small Villages; but in large Villages, where there are traders, mechanics, shop-keepers, Dosads, Domes, Mirdhas and others have been appointed Chowkeedars and receive money payments.

12. Formerly a cluster of several Villages would have but one Chowkeedar between them, the residents knowing that by their combining, the expense of each Village would be small. This, however, I told them was objectionable and must be put a stop to, as one man could not efficiently superintend so many Villages. Where two or three small ones were near one another, as among the Zemindaree Sontallee Villages, I would not require a Chowkeedar for each Village. The Manjhees might appoint or depute some one of his Ryots to report the occurrence of any crime or casualty in his Village. They were well pleased with this arrangement, and promised to have it carried into effect. Very little crime, however, occurs among the Sontals, and if one of their number in each small Village comes to the Station now and then to report how matters are getting on, it is as much as is necessary.

13. Before the promulgation of the new Police Rules, Chowkeedars used to come in to Rajmehal and the several Thannahs, to report the state of affairs in their respective Villages, Mehallas and Tolas. This practice I kept up, directing the near ones to come in bi-weekly and weekly, and the more distant ones twice a month. The old Vernacular Chowkeedar Registers I had translated into English; Chowkeedars had stated days to come in and report, and were paraded either before myself or the Sub-Assistant Commissioner, and each man asked if all were well in his Elaka. In this way I have had constant intercourse with the Chowkeedars of my Division. Those who did not come in, I punished by fine, unless cause was given for their non-appearance.

14. In all petty and miscellaneous cases, on a Plaintiff appearing to prosecute, I make a short abstract of his charge, call in his Witnesses, and summon the Defendant, either giving him a fixed time to appear in Court, or at once, as the case may be. The summons is taken by the Plaintiff himself, or by a Chuprassee, as I may think proper, and given to the Defendant in the presence of a Witness, so that defendant should not

hereafter have it in his power to deny its receipt. Should Defendant not appear in the time allowed, or absent himself so as to elude the summons, I send a Perwannah to the Mundul of his Village, either by the Plaintiff or a Chuprassee, to apprehend and send in the Defendant. Should Defendant persist in absenting himself, I direct the Mundul to attach the Defendant's property to the extent I may name, and to warn his family that should he not now appear by a certain time before the Hakim to answer the charge against him, the attached property will be sold as a punishment for contempt of Court's orders. I have, however, never had occasion to sell the attached property. The attachment shows Defendant that come in he must, and on his doing so, should he not show good cause for his continued absence, I punish him by fine. By the above means, I always get in the Defendant or any Witness required, and have never had occasion to seek the Zemindar's assistance in petty and miscellaneous cases.

15. In cases of theft, burglaries and other serious crimes, the Chowkeedar frequently comes in with the accused parties, together with Prosecutor and his Witnesses, and at times the stolen property. Should, however, the accused have absconded, if a Sontal or a Pahariah, I summon him through the Manjhee of his Village or Hill; if a Deshee or Bengallee, through his Mundul, ordering his apprehension and transmission to Court. This Perwannah I either send by the Chowkeedar or Chuprassee as the seriousness of the case may be. Should I not succeed in bringing in the accused by the above means, I order the Mundul or Manjhee to attach his property to a certain amount till he appears or is apprehended. Should he have no property, I then send an order to the Pergunnite, Hill Sirdar or Zemindar, as the case may be, to render every assistance in securing the apprehension of the accused party or parties. I have seldom, however, have had recourse to the last expedient, except, perhaps, in cases of servants running away from service, taking with them their master's property, and their whereabouts not being definitely known; or when the accused charged with theft may have been only a short time in his last residence and have absconded. In such cases Perwannahs to Munduls would be of little use, unless I could ascertain in which particular locality the accused had absconded or secreted himself. These latter cases, however, have been but few. No parties charged with grave and serious charges have had to be brought in by Zemindars. In all heinous cases regarding the attendance of Munduls they receive their three Annas per day as ordered in the Rules, and Chowkeedars and Witnesses their two Annas per day.

16. I am happy to say no forcible confessions have been extorted by Munduls from accused parties, that is, none have been brought to my notice. Had there been any I think I should have heard of the same, either from the parties from whom such confessions had been extorted or from their relations. I have made it a point to see that every Mundul has received a copy of the new Police Rules. I have also distributed copies to all able to read them, on their attendance at my several Encampments, wishing for the same. No cases of a heinous nature have occurred since date of my last Report in October last. Burglaries have considerably lessened, principally owing, I think, to the measures taken by me and noted in Paragraph 9. So far from crime not being reported, I find that some Munduls report even petty quarrels and assaults between their Ryots. I have since explained to all that these petty quarrels do not require their interference, only in cases of wounding or serious breach of the peace, or intent thereto, need be reported by them to me. In petty cases the aggrieved party was to be informed he could come direct to me for redress.

17. In regard to matters between Zemindars and their Ryots, a constant cause of complaint was that Zemindars and their Mofussil agents do not at once grant Ryots receipts on payment of rents, but tell them to bring in further sums, when a receipt would be given. Fraudulent Zemindars and Mofussil agents thus leave to themselves a door open for extortion, and help to keep the Ryot uncertain how much more he may have to pay. By such means, too, khurrutcha and other cesses used to be levied. I have endeavored to put a stop to this by ordering Zemindars to direct their subordinates to give receipts to Ryots on their paying in rents and pharkuttees when the Ryots have paid up in full, under penalty of a heavy fine.

18. I should much wish to see the boundaries of every Ryot's land noted in his Pottah. This would prevent much petty litigation, and at the same time prevent Zemindars and their agents from taking "Pottah Salaamee" for the same piece of land from perhaps two or three individuals, to whom small allotments of the same patch of land are given. Four lines at the bottom of each Pottah would suffice, for instance—

North, bounded by Kistoo Horee's Jote.
South, bounded by Nulla or Khall.
East, bounded by Seeboo Mundul's Jote.
West, bounded by Ramdhon's Jote.

At present very few Pottahs in this Division have the boundaries noted. I think, too, that Zemindars should be bound under a penalty to give a Pottah for every piece of land given out by them in lease, and

the amount of rent, boundaries, terms of lease noted therein. This would effectually put a stop to the collection of khurrutcha and other cesses which the Ryots of this Division now well know to be illegal and are not bound to pay when no Pottah but merely a verbal permission is given. He, the Ryot, is never sure what he may be called on to pay. At the taking of the land he is probably told he will have to pay at the same rate as others. He, however, finds to his cost the value of verbal promises when the crops are about fit for gathering, the Zemindar either claiming one-half on "Adheesaree," or a much higher rent than verbally agreed on. The Ryot, having no document, is *lachar* and obliged to give in to his Zemindar's demand, being a loser either way, unless he be a man of some influence and able to hold his own and prove the verbal agreement; a slip of paper would prevent all misunderstanding. Again a Zemindar gives a verbal lease of jungle or grass land to A, who feeling himself secure of his new acquisition, and having, perhaps, more pressing matters to look to at the time, delays breaking up the new land, B. seeing this land lying fallow, and not knowing that A had already got the Zemindar's permission to take it, asks Zemindar or his agent for it, and paying a salamee gets it on the same conditions as A. He commences at once, and has, perhaps, broken up one-half of it, when A comes to break up the land. He is naturally surprised to find that another has taken possession of what he considers his, a dispute ensues, followed, perhaps, by blows, and a serious row commences, ending in the Hakim having to decide who shall have the land, besides having to enquire into the assault case. These disputes are of frequent occurrence in chur or newly-formed lands, and might be avoided were the Zemindars compelled to give Pottahs for all lands leased by him to Ryots.

19. One other point I would bring to the Commissioner's notice. It is that Zemindars should be bound to register in this Court a correct list of their Gomastahs, Naibs, Sircars and Ameens, in fact all rent-collecting and Mofussil Amlah, distinguishing those who are authorized to grant Pottahs to Ryots. No fee for such registry need be required. I have on some occasions found that Zemindars repudiate the Pottahs given by their Mofussil agents when it suits their views to do so. This is a hardship to the Ryot, who naturally judging that if a Gomastah is allowed to collect rents and is seemingly the authorised agent of the Zemindar, a Pottah from him would be valid and binding on the Zemindar. He sometimes finds out his mistake when too late. After perhaps clearing and bringing under cultivation waste lands, the Zemindar may come forward and say the Gomastah had no authority to grant such Pottah, and makes the Ryot perhaps pay an enhanced rent, or makes the land over to another, taking a salamee for the same. The Zemindar, on the other hand, may urge that his agent, in collusion with the Ryot, has given the Pottah at a less jumma than he ought to have done, or perhaps knowing that his Zemindar is about to discharge him, gives Pottahs at a small jumma, being well paid by the Ryot for the same. Here in both instances he can seek redress from the Hakim, who would decide whether such Pottahs had been collusively given or not This he could easily do by enquiring whether the land given in lease by Gomastah or Agent was below the average rate of that locality for such land, or different to the usual terms on which waste lands are given. I think what I have above proposed would ensure fair treatment to the Ryot, prevent dissension, give less work to the Hakim, and cause the Zemindar to be more careful in the selection of his Mofussil agent. The latter, it is well-known, are generally miserably low paid and are allowed to prey on the unfortunate Ryots to make up for their smallness of pay.

20. I may now safely say that the new Police Rules have had a fair trial; and have been favorably received by all parties, especially the poorer and cultivating classes in the Bengallee portion of my Division, and with the exception of the question of pay to Munduls, not a single objection of any kind has been raised against them. To the Sontals of my Division, both Zemindaree and Damun, the abolition of the old Police has been of essential benefit and is duly appreciated by them. The people have now had eight months' experience of the working of the new system, and know that they will have only themselves to blame if it does not answer the purposes intended, *viz.*, protection from oppression, the suppression of crime, and speedy justice from the Hakim direct, unattended by long and tedious delays, or payment of heavy and questionable fees as formerly.

21. As a proof that the new system is popular and sought for, I beg to inform you that many residents of Pergunnahs Phurka and Duzhazaree, excluded from the Sontal Pergunnahs under Act X of 1857, have come to me for redress and gone away disappointed when I informed that I was unable to take up their cases. They begged they might be allowed to return to these Pergunnahs and enjoy the same advantages as granted to the residents of this Division I may further add that the Messrs. Lyon are now as anxious to have their cases adjudicated by Sontallee Officers, as they had been previously to be excluded from their Courts. This, I think, may be taken as a proof that the Non-Regulation system, as followed in these Pergunnahs, is now received favorably by those who were its first and most influential opponents in this Division, and through whose remonstrances Pergunnahs Phurka and Duzhazaree, much against the wishes of the people residing therein, were excluded from the Sontal Pergunnahs under Act X. of 1857.

22. In conclusion, I would remark, that from the wording of your letter No. 477 of the 8th July last, I was under the impression that the Commissioner required a "Report on the working of the new Police Rules," and not of the manner in which the details had been carried out by each Assistant in his own Division. From the Commissioner's Circular of the 11th November last, forwarding all our Reports for each other's perusal, I find that the other Assistants have taken your letter in the same light as myself. I should have been very happy to have sent you a detailed Report, as now, had I thought that such had been required. I am glad, however, to have had the advantage of a longer experience in the working of the new Police Rules, for I can now report not only on my mode of procedure, but also with confidence, that the new system is working well and to the complete satisfaction of the people of this Division.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

BROWNE WOOD,

Assistant Commissioner, Sontal Pergunnahs.

John Gray, "Bengal Hurkaru" Press.